

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, CI

SUBJECT: LETELIER/MOFFITT ASSASSINATION CASE: JUSTICE
DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JUSTICE DEPARTMENT PRESS RELEASE
OF AUGUST 1 CONCERNING LETELIER/MOFFITT CASE INDICTMENTS:

2. QUOTE: EARL J. SILBERT, UNITED STATES ATTORNEY,
DISTRICT OF COLOMBIA: I WISH TO ANNOUNCE TODAY THE RETURN
BY A FEDERAL GRAND JURY OF A TEN COUNT INDICTMENT RELATING
TO THE MURDER OF ORLANDO LETELIER AND RONNI MOFFITT. THE
TWO WERE MURDERED ON SEPTEMBER 21, 1976, WHEN THE CAR OF
MR. LETELIER IN WHICH THEY WERE RIDING WAS BLOWN UP BY A
BOMB. MR. LETELIER WAS A FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED
STATES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

THOSE INDICTED ARE: 1. JUAN MANUEL CONTRERAS, FORMER
DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE OF
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE (DINA) AND AN
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OFFICER IN THE CHILEAN ARMY; 2. PEDRO ESPINOZA, FORMER
DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS FOR DINA AND AN OFFICER IN THE
CHILEAN ARMY; 3. ARMANDO FERNANDEZ, AN AGENT OF DINA AND
AN OFFICER IN THE CHILEAN ARMY; 4. GUILLERMO NOVO; 5.
ALVIN ROSS; 6. VIRGILIO PAZ; 7. JOSE DIONISSO SUAREZ;

8. IGNACIO NOVO.

THE LAST FIVE NAMED DEFENDANTS ARE MEMBERS OF THE CUBAN NATIONALIST MOVEMENT.

THE OFFENSES FOR WHICH THE ABOVE PERSONS HAVE BEEN INDICTED, WITH THE MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT PROVIDED BY LAW, ARE:

ALL DEFENDANTS EXCEPT IGNACIO NOVO:

COUNT 1. 18 U.S. CODE SEC. 1117, CONSPIRACY TO MURDER A FOREIGN OFFICIAL. MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT: LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

COUNT 2. 18 U.S. CODE SECS. 1111 AND 1116, MURDER OF A FOREIGN OFFICIAL. MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT: LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

COUNT 3. 22 D.C. CODE SEC. 2401, FIRST DEGREE MURDER (LETELIER). MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT: LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

COUNT 4. 22 D.C. CODE, SEC. 2401, FIRST DEGREE MURDER (MOFFITT). MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT: LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

COUNT 5. 18 U.S. CODE SEC. 844(I), MURDER BY USE OF EXPLOSIVES. MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT: LIFE IMPRISONMENT.

GUILLERMO NOVO AND IGNACIO NOVO:

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COUNTS 6-9. 18 U.S. CODE, SEC. 1623, FALSE DECLARATION BEFORE GRAND JURY (TWO COUNTS FOR EACH DEFENDANT). MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT: FIVE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT, \$10,000 FINE FOR EACH COUNT.

IGNACIO NOVO:

COUNT 10. 18 U.S. CODE SEC. 4, MISPRISION OF A FELONY MAXIMUM PUNISHMENT: THREE YEARS' IMPRISONMENT AND \$500 FINE.

PURSUANT TO TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED AND CHILE, THE UNITED STATES WILL REQUEST THE IMMEDIATE ARREST AND DETENTION OF THOSE CHILEAN CITIZENS NAMED IN THE INDICTMENT. A REQUEST FOR THEIR EXTRADITION WILL FOLLOW.

THE INDICTMENT HAS BEEN PRECEDED BY AN EXHAUSTIVE, VIGOROUS INVESTIGATION STARTING FROM THE DATE OF THE MURDER BY THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, ESPECIALLY BY ITS WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE. THROUGHOUT THE NEARLY TWO YEAR INVESTIGATION CONDUCTED BY THE GRAND JURY, THE FBI AND THIS OFFICE, WE HAVE RECEIVED OUTSTANDING COOPERATION

FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND STRONG CONTINUING SUPPORT
FROM THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND DEPUTY ASSISTANT ATTORNEY
GENERAL ROBERT KEUCH. I WISH ALSO TO COMMEND ASSISTANT
STATES ATTORNEYS EUGENE PROPPER AND LAWRENCE BARCELLA FOR
THEIR RESOURCEFULNESS AND ABILITY IN CONDUCTING THE GRAND
JURY INVESTIGATION. END QUOTE. VANCE

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